

Mothers for Natural Law

*** RECEIVED ***
Sep 28, 1999 15:16:50 WS# 02
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE
CONTROL CENTER

June 1, 1999

Dear Madam,

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Last week, *Time*, the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Good Morning America* and most major media outlets across the US carried the news that Monarch butterflies died unexpectedly from eating milkweed plants which had been dusted with the pollen of genetically engineered Bt corn. This finding is the most recent of many unwanted and unintentional side effects from genetically engineered foods.

In every corner of the world, at every level of society, scientists, clergy, physicians, farmers, government leaders and citizens are raising a warning against the introduction of genetically engineered organisms into our food chain. Yet here in America, your agency insists this technology is safe.

If it's safe, why is the British Medical Association calling for a moratorium on commercial transgenic plantings? Why is the European food industry demanding segregation and labeling of genetically engineered products? Why is the Pope warning of ethical implications? Why is Austria fighting to be a biotech-free zone? And why are 1,300 schools in the United Kingdom banning these foods from their cafeterias? Do they know something about genetic engineering that we don't? Are they paying attention to something we are ignoring? And if so, why?

In less than three years, more than 25% of our corn, 35% of our soybeans and 50% of our cotton crops have been genetically engineered. Already at least 60% of the foods in our grocery stores contain some genetically engineered component. Within 5 - 10 years the biotech industry intends to genetically engineer all of our food.

Why are we in such a rush? Forty years ago DDT was thought to be a safe and promising addition to agriculture. Thalidomide was given to pregnant women by their doctors. Nuclear power was touted as the cleanest energy source on earth. Marketed prematurely, each of these technological innovations brought unforeseen, unwanted and tragic side effects—which could have been so easily avoided through long-term safety testing. Well, we're doing it again. Genetically engineered foods are being rushed into the market without proper long-term testing. But the problems that could ensue from the genetic manipulation of our food make even 10,000 years of radioactive waste seem insignificant. Haven't we learned anything from our mistakes?

We are a vital and creative country. We move quickly and enthusiastically when science opens doors to new frontiers. Our love of progress, our vision of possibilities for life is a cornerstone of our nation's greatness. But allowing the glamour of a new discovery to overshadow sound judgment, giving ourselves permission to flood our fields with experimental organisms, which once released can never be recalled, is not only an extremely foolish misuse of science, it's irresponsible. And to conscript the American people into this experiment—without their knowledge or consent—to put these foods on the shelves of our grocery stores without labels—is not only un-American, it's unconscionable. This technology is so powerful that caution is absolutely called for. It's just common sense.

On June 17, on behalf of the Consumer Right to Know Campaign, we will submit several hundred thousand signatures on a petition calling for the mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods to the President, Congress, USDA, FDA, and EPA. I invite you to attend the presentation of these petitions and accept them on behalf of the American people. At this presentation, you will hear the considerable concerns of scientists and physicians, farmers, religious leaders, American and European food industry members, and consumers. And when you do, you will recognize that these concerns demand your serious and immediate attention.

I urge you to step forward to safeguard the future for all of us.

Sincerely,

Laura Ticciati

Laura Ticciati

Executive Director

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National Summit on the Hazards of Genetically Engineered Foods

Presentation of the first 500,000 petition signatures calling for the mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods to be submitted to the President, Congress, USDA, FDA, and EPA

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Capitol Hilton Hotel, 16th & K Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

9 AM to 12 Noon

You are cordially invited to attend this national summit to discuss the urgent need to safeguard America's food supply from the hazards of genetic engineering.

— PANELISTS —

Science, Health, and Environment

SHELDON KRIMSKY, PH.D., Professor, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy, Tufts University

RICHARD STROHMAN, PH.D., Professor Emeritus, Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California at Berkeley

RAMA DWIVEDI, PH.D., Associate Director, Targeted Mutagenesis Facility, Children's Memorial Hospital, Northwestern University Medical School

JOHN HAGELIN, PH.D., Director, Institute of Science, Technology, and Public Policy; Presidential Candidate, Natural Law Party; Conference Moderator

RONALD DAVID, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, D.C. General Hospital, Washington, D.C.

GARY KAPLAN, M.D., PH.D., Director, Clinical Neurophysiology, North Shore University Hospital, New York University School of Medicine

Agriculture, Economics, and Trade

BILL WADSWORTH, Technical Manager, Iceland Frozen Foods, Plc, United Kingdom; Former Chairman, Food Legislation Committee, British Retail Consortium; 1999 Corporate Conscience Award Winner, Council on Economic Priorities

THE HON. MARIE RABIDEAU, New Hampshire State Legislature; Sponsor of House Bill 291 that would ban "Terminator Technology" from New Hampshire

PATRICK MCVEIGH, Executive Vice President, Trillium Asset Management (formerly Franklin Research and Development)

STEVE SUPPAN, PH.D., Director of Research, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

FREDERICK KIRSCHENMANN, PH.D., Owner, Kirschenmann Family Farms; Member, National Organic Standards Board; Former member, USDA National Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Council

MARGARET WITTENBERG, Vice President, Governmental and Public Affairs, Whole Foods Market, Inc.; USDA/EPA Tolerance Reassessment Advisory Committee Retailer Representative

SUSAN HAEGER, President, Citizens For Health

LAURA TICCIATI, Executive Director, Mothers for Natural Law; National Coordinator, "Consumer Right to Know Campaign;" Conference Host

Ethics and Religion

STEVE DRUKER, Director, Alliance for Bio-Integrity

THE REVEREND DR. DONALD CONROY, Roman Catholic Priest; President, North American Coalition on Religion and Ecology

RABBI ALAN GREEN, Association of Jewish Renewal Rabbis

THE REVEREND DR. DEWITT WILLIAMS, Director of Health Ministries of North America, Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Reservations and Information: 1-877-732-5366

Sponsored by Mothers for Natural Law of the Natural Law Party

Participation by panel members does not necessarily imply support for the Natural Law Party.

Natural Law Party • Blair House Suite 525 • 8201 16th Street • Silver Spring, MD 20910

CONSUMER RIGHT TO KNOW

ONE MILLION IN '98 CAMPAIGN

Sep 28, 1999 15:16:50 WS# 02
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE
CONTROL CENTER

PETITION TO SECURE THE MANDATORY LABELING OF ALL GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, CONGRESS, USDA AND FDA

New substances are being introduced into our foods via a technology called genetic engineering. A growing number of scientists and physicians are voicing concern over the possible health and environmental risks from these foods. Current laws and policies do not require the food industry to label these new genetically engineered foods. Without labels consumers lose the freedom to choose what they will eat and feed their families. This petition upholds the right of consumers to make informed choices.

We, the undersigned, as citizens of the United States of America, strongly urge the passage of legislation and policies to mandate the clear and accurate labeling of all foods derived from, processed with, containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms before they are released into any and all commercial markets.

PLEASE SIGN & PRINT YOUR NAME/ADDRESS CLEARLY

Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11-23-98</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11-22-98</u>
Name <u>Ellen Heller</u> Phone <u>(520) 523-7163</u>	Name <u>Keith Mason</u> Phone <u>904 727 4723</u>
Address <u>14 Woodland Circle</u>	Address <u>P.O. Box 80767</u>
City/State/Zip <u>Flagstaff, AZ 86001</u>	City/State/Zip <u>Chamblee, GA 30366</u>
Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11-22-98</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11-22-98</u>
Name <u>William L. Leland</u> Phone <u>(520) 523-0517</u>	Name <u>Mark Leland</u> Phone <u>(215) 882-9302</u>
Address <u>20 Box 7181</u>	Address <u>6713 Rhode</u>
City/State/Zip <u>Flagstaff, AZ 86001</u>	City/State/Zip <u>Corpus Christi, TX</u>
Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11-22-98</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11/22/98</u>
Name <u>William Gordon</u> Phone <u></u>	Name <u>M. Gayer</u> Phone <u>718 599 9657</u>
Address <u>43450 Cedar Ave.</u>	Address <u>2 Havemeyer St</u>
City/State/Zip <u>Hemet, CA</u>	City/State/Zip <u>BKlyn, NY 11211</u>
Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11/22/98</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11/22/98</u>
Name <u>Todd Rissone</u> Phone <u></u>	Name <u>David Elestein</u> Phone <u>718 820 8209</u>
Address <u>1790 Lander St</u>	Address <u>51 Stuyvesant Ave</u>
City/State/Zip <u>Reno, NV 89509</u>	City/State/Zip <u>Larchmont, NY 10538</u>
Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11/22/98</u>	Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date <u>11-22-98</u>
Name <u>Sean Dail</u> Phone <u>(919) 833-4447</u>	Name <u>Robbyn R. E. Sellers</u> Phone <u>877-3005</u>
Address <u>1421 Wake Forest Rd.</u>	Address <u>6401 Coors Blvd SW</u>
City/State/Zip <u>Raleigh, N.C. 27604</u>	City/State/Zip <u>Albuquerque, New Mexico 871</u>

Mail completed petitions to the Consumer Right to Know National Headquarters:

Mothers for Natural Law • P.O. Box 1177 • Fairfield, Iowa 52556

For more information, send \$5.00 for an Information Pack to Mothers for Natural Law or check out our web site—www.safe-food.org



1,000,000 Signatures by Thanksgiving
FOR YOUR KIDS. FOR YOUR HEALTH.
FOR THE PLANET.

1-877-REAL-FOOD

